

**Proposed Substitute  
Bill No. 5087**

LCO No. 5668

**AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL CHARTER REVISION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. Section 7-190 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2       following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3       (a) Within thirty days after such action has been initiated by vote of  
4       the appointing authority or by certification of a petition, the  
5       appointing authority shall by resolution appoint a commission  
6       consisting of not fewer than five nor more than fifteen electors, not  
7       more than one-third of whom may hold any other public office in the  
8       municipality and not more than a bare majority of whom shall be  
9       members of any one political party, which commission shall proceed  
10      forthwith to draft a charter, or amendments to the existing charter, or  
11      amendments to the home rule ordinance, as the case may be.

12      (b) The appointing authority shall direct the commission to consider  
13      those recommendations included in the petition and may make other  
14      recommendations to the commission. The commission may also  
15      consider other items for inclusion in the proposed charter, other  
16      changes to the charter or home rule ordinance and such other items as  
17      it deems desirable or necessary. The commission shall in its reports  
18      comment on each recommendation which it has been directed to

19 consider, if any, and on such other changes or items. The appointing  
20 authority shall specify by resolution when the commission shall  
21 submit its draft report, which shall be not later than sixteen months  
22 from the date of its appointment.

23 (c) On and after the effective date of this section, the appointing  
24 authority shall appoint a commission, in accordance with the  
25 procedure set forth in subsection (a) of this section, to review the  
26 charter or home rule ordinance, as applicable, in its entirety once every  
27 ten years. If the commission determines that such charter or home rule  
28 ordinance requires amendment, the commission shall prepare a draft  
29 report summarizing any such amendments. Any such proposed  
30 amendments shall be subject to the procedure set forth in subsections  
31 (a) through (g) of section 7-191, as amended by this act. The appointing  
32 authority shall specify by resolution when the commission shall  
33 submit the draft report required pursuant to this subsection, which  
34 shall be not later than sixteen months from the date of its appointment.

35 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) The commission shall terminate upon acceptance or  
36 rejection of its final report by the appointing authority.

37 Sec. 2. Section 7-191 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
38 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

39 (a) The commission shall hold at least two public hearings on the  
40 proposed charter, charter amendments or home rule ordinance  
41 amendments; one prior to the beginning of any substantive work on  
42 such charter, charter amendments or home rule ordinance  
43 amendments, and one after the draft report to the appointing authority  
44 has been completed, but not submitted, after which hearings the  
45 commission may amend such report. The commission may hold such  
46 other public hearings as it deems necessary.

47 (b) The commission shall submit its draft report, including the  
48 proposed charter, charter amendments or home rule ordinance  
49 amendments, to the clerk of the municipality, who shall transmit such  
50 report to the appointing authority. The appointing authority shall hold

51 at least one public hearing on the draft report and shall hold its last  
52 hearing not later than forty-five days after the submission of the draft  
53 report to such clerk. Not later than fifteen days after its last hearing,  
54 the appointing authority shall make recommendations to the  
55 commission for such changes in the draft report as it deems desirable.

56 (c) If the appointing authority makes no recommendations for  
57 changes in the draft report to the commission within such fifteen days,  
58 the report of the commission shall be final and the appointing  
59 authority shall act on such report. If the appointing authority makes  
60 recommendations for changes in the draft report to the commission,  
61 the commission shall confer with the appointing authority concerning  
62 any such recommendations and may amend any provisions of the  
63 proposed charter, charter amendments or home rule ordinance  
64 amendments, in accordance with such recommendations, or the  
65 commission may reject such recommendations. In either case the  
66 commission shall make its final report to the appointing authority not  
67 later than thirty days after receiving such recommendations.

68 (d) Not later than fifteen days after receiving the final report, the  
69 appointing authority, by a majority vote of its entire membership, shall  
70 either approve the proposed charter, charter amendments or home  
71 rule ordinance amendments or reject the same or separate provisions  
72 thereof. Not later than forty-five days after a vote of the appointing  
73 authority to reject such matter, a petition for a referendum thereon,  
74 signed by not less than ten per cent of the electors of such  
75 municipality, as determined by the last-completed registry list thereof,  
76 and filed and certified in accordance with the provisions of section  
77 7-188, may be presented to the appointing authority. Not later than  
78 thirty days after approval by the appointing authority or the  
79 certification of such a petition (1) the proposed charter shall be  
80 published in full at least once in a newspaper having a general  
81 circulation in the municipality, or (2) the portion of the charter or home  
82 rule ordinance being amended shall be published at least once in a  
83 newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality with a  
84 notice that a complete copy of the charter or home rule ordinance and

85 amendment is available in the town clerk's office and that a copy shall  
86 be mailed to any person who requests a copy. The town clerk shall  
87 mail or otherwise provide such copy to any person who requests a  
88 copy.

89 (e) The appointing authority shall, by a majority vote of its entire  
90 membership, determine whether the proposed charter, charter  
91 amendments or home rule ordinance amendments shall be submitted  
92 to the electors for approval or rejection at a regular election or at a  
93 special election warned and held for that purpose, which shall be held  
94 not later than fifteen months after either the approval by the  
95 appointing authority or the certification of a petition for a referendum.

96 (f) The proposed charter, charter amendments or home rule  
97 ordinance amendments shall be prepared for the ballot by the  
98 appointing authority and may be submitted in the form of one or  
99 several questions; and, if approved by a majority of the electors of the  
100 municipality voting thereon at a regular election or if approved by a  
101 majority which number equals at least fifteen per cent of the electors of  
102 the municipality as determined by the last-completed active registry  
103 list of such municipality at a special election, such proposed charter,  
104 charter amendments or home rule ordinance amendments shall  
105 become effective thirty days after such approval unless an effective  
106 date or dates are specified therein, in which event the date or dates  
107 specified shall prevail.

108 (g) Not later than thirty days after the approval by the electors of  
109 any proposed charter, charter amendments or home rule ordinance  
110 amendments, the town or city clerk shall file, with the Secretary of the  
111 State, (1) three certified copies thereof, with the effective date or dates  
112 indicated thereon, and (2) in the case of the approval of charter or  
113 home rule ordinance amendments, three certified copies of the  
114 complete charter or ordinance incorporating such amendments. The  
115 Secretary of the State shall distribute two copies, whether tangible or  
116 intangible in form, to the State Library, where a file of such charters,  
117 charter amendments and home rule ordinance amendments shall be

118 kept for public inspection.

119 (h) The municipal legislative body may make minor and technical  
120 revisions to the charter or home rule ordinance without following the  
121 procedure set forth in subsections (a) to (g), inclusive, of this section  
122 provided such revisions are deemed minor and technical by a two-  
123 thirds majority vote of such legislative body.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	7-190
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	7-191

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